General Installation Instructions:

***Important information -** Each laminate board has 2 different sized extensions on both the short and long sides (used to lock the planks together). The shorter extensions are called tongues and the longer are called grooves.

Tongue Side ➡   ⬅ Groove Side

Installation Tip: In doorways or archways 48" or less, a transitional piece must be used.   This procedure will allow two adjacent areas of flooring to expand and contract independent from each other.   Our laminate floor may be installed in areas 66 ft x 66 ft without the use of a molding.

Step One: **Undercut all door casings.**
This process will allow you to slide the edge of a plank under the door case without having to expose the ¼" to 3/8" expansion space around the door case. To do this, turn one plank upside down (for planks without attached underlayment, place a piece of foam underlayment under the plank), and with a hand saw resting flat on the surface of the floor cut the door casing, (Image 1)

Note: Be sure to leave a concealed 1/4" to 3/8" expansion space under the door casings or between the flooring and any verticle structure.

Step Two: Determine if underlayment is needed.
If a foam underlayment is not attached to your laminate floor, be sure to install a recommended foam underlayment prior to installation. (Image 2)
Laminate floors may be installed in combination with most types of radiant heating systems (please consult the heating system manufacturer's instructions to verify). Always follow the Radiant heating Manufacturer recommendations. The system must be in operation for at least 2 weeks prior to installing your laminate floor.

Step Three: Locating a starting point
Select the wall from which you want the planks to run parallel. This will become your starting wall. Facing the starting wall, installation will move from left to right, beginning in the left corner.
**Note: For best aesthetic results, it is recommended that you do the following whenever possible: (1) lay the planks parallel to the source of entering light or to the longest wall in the room, and (2) keep the width of the final row of planks at least 2 inches. To ensure this, divide the total distance between the starting and ending walls by the width of one plank surface (do not measure tongue and groove). This will determine the number of rows needed for the room. If the final row would be less than 2 inches wide, trim the width of the first row (from the tongue side) to allow for the width of the final row to be above 2 inches.

Step Four: Beginning Installation - The First Row
When starting with full width planks: Using a utility knife or similar cutting device, trim the tongues off of the long side of the first row of planks as well as from the short side of your starting plank (Image 3). Position the starting plank against the left corner of the starting wall so that the long tongue side (that has been removed) runs parallel against the wall (Image 4).
Use the spacers to create an even 3/8" gap between the perimeter planks and the walls. When using the recommended Accutite™ Installation Kit, simply overlap two spacers so that the thick side of the top spacer is directly over the thin side of the bottom spacer, creating a set. Wedge sets of spacers between the tongue sides of the perimeter planks and the adjacent walls. Be sure to place a set of spacers on the wall at each joint where the planks meet (Image 5) Using these spacers will create the 3/8 expansion space necessary for installation.
To install the second plank in the row, angle the short side tongue of the second plank into the short side groove of first and push them together while pressing and rotating the plank downward. As you do this, be sure that the two planks are aligned (Image 6). The planks should fit together tightly and all edges should be even. No separation or gaps should be visible after the planks are locked together. The floor should appear to be seamless. Follow the same procedure along the row.
After installing the last full-length plank, measure the distance between the end of that plank and the wall—be sure to place a set of 3/8" spacers against the wall when measuring (Image 7). Starting with the tongue side, transfer the recorded distance onto a new plank and cut the plank to fit the remaining space (Image 8). Position and install the cut plank following the same procedure used for the row. Be sure that the width of the planks are lined up straight.

Step Five : The second and following rows
IMPORTANT: See "staggering procedure" below to maintain proper pattern depending on the style of flooring you purchased

Install the leftover plank from the first row (if the leftover portion is shorter than 12 inches, cut a new plank in half and use this instead) to a full length plank in order to create one long, extended plank to begin the second row (Image 9). To begin installing rows, insert the long side tongue of the extended plank into the long side groove of the previous row (remember to install from left to right and use the spacer set against the wall). To do this, slide the extended plank of the new row as close as possible to the previous row. Lift the plank at an angle, applying pressure, until the two rows click together. Then, rest the plank back on the floor (Image 10).

 *INSTALLATION HINT: To maintain the position of the rows, put an unopened box of planks at the beginning of the rows (Image 11). This will help keep the joints closed at the beginning of the row

Your laminate floor has a suggested installation pattern to prevent damage as well as maintain aesthetic values. For installation of all additional rows/planks, you will need to be sure to follow the **staggering procedure** below for the floor type you purchased:

-For wood design: All end joints (where planks meet) must be staggered by at least 12 inches (Image A)
-For tile design: All end joints must be staggered by at least one full tile (Image B)
-For random design: As long as all end joints are staggered by at least 12 inches, you may position the planks however you wish (Image C)
-For multidirectional design: Each end joint must be aligned directly in the center of a plank from the previous row (Image D).

Keeping the staggering method in mind, for each subsequent plank, insert the short tongue of a new plank into the short groove of the previously installed plank by lifting the plank at an angle. Slide the new plank as close as possible to the previous row then rotate the plank downward (Image 12). Putting your hands as close to the short side joint as possible, lift the planks at an angle and apply pressure inserting the long tongue into the long groove of the previously installed row until it clicks into place (Image 13). To ensure the entire plank is connected, repeat this procedure at the other end of the plank. Repeat this process to complete the row and all rows until the final row. There should be no gaps and the floor should appear seamless.

 *INSTALLATION HINT: 1- For ease of installation, position yourself as soon as you are able, on top of the previous rows (Image14). This will allow you to pull the planks into place easier.

Step Six: The Last Row

To measure the width needed for the last row, you will need to use a leftover portion of a plank, about 8 inches in length. This portion of plank must be full width (the width of a full plank). This will be used as your measuring plank. Assemble the final row directly on top of the previously installed row (following the correct stagger method and being sure that the tongue and groove are facing the correct direction). **Be sure that the two rows are lined up**, doing this will make sure that your final row is ripped properly. Place the measuring plank on top of the final row and completely against the wall, you do not need to use spacers. Mark the final row (this will show where you will need to cut the final row of planks to make it the correct width. Continue measuring and marking all planks, moving along the row (Image15). Cut planks to size and install following the same process as all other rows (Image 16).

*INSTALLATION HINTS: For ease of installation, use the pull bar to install the last narrow row. Position the narrow plank flat on the sub-floor; place the pull bar between the plank and the wall and begin tapping from one end of the plank to the opposite end (Image 17).

Installing under obsticles:

NOTE: Installing under door casings or anywhere the plank cannot be rotated.   Install masking tape, blue tape or sheet rock tape half way under the previously installed plank and the new plank to collect any excess adhesive that may flow down to the subfloor.

Measure and cut the plank to fit in place. Place a row of planks on top of the previously installed row. Transfer the pattern needed to be cut onto the proper plank, then cut the plank (Image 18 & 19) . Keep in mind that you will need to leave expansion room around and under the area, so be sure to account for that in your measurements (if properly installed, wallbase or quarter round will cover this expansion space). Using a chisel, remove the lock from the groove of the short side of the previous plank (Image 20). Now, using the chisel, remove the lock from the groove on the previous row in order to accommodate the length of the plank. Apply PVA glue to the two grooves where the lock was removed (Image 21). Slide the plank under the door casing and pull it into the joints that have been glued until there is a tight seal (Image 22). Using blue tape, hold the plank in place for 12 hours or until the glue has set (Image 23). Follow this procedure for door casing or other situations in which the plank cannot be lifted to lock into place.
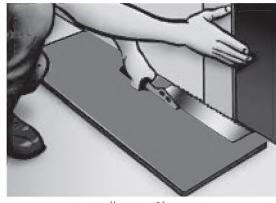
(Image 1) (Image 2) (Image 3) (Image 4) (Image 5)
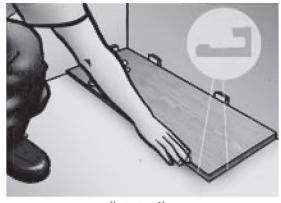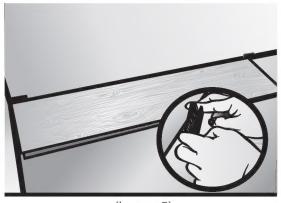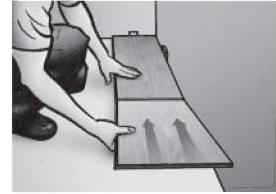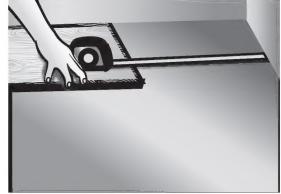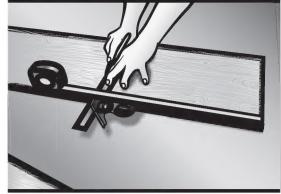
(Image 6) (Image 7) (Image 8) (Image 9) (Image 10)
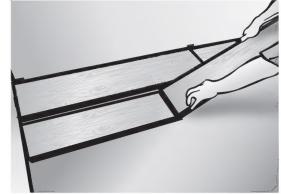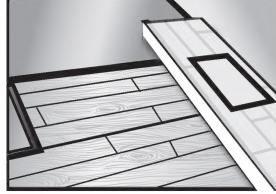
(Image 11) (Image 12) (Image 13) (Image 14) (Image 15)
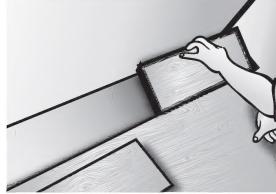
(Image 16) (Image 17) (Image 18) (Image 19) (Image 20)
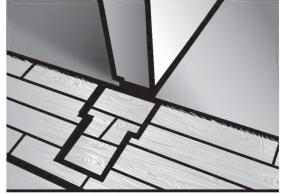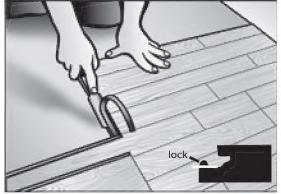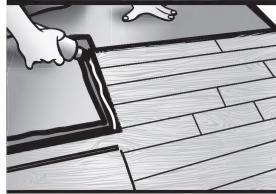
(Image 21) (Image 22) (Image 23)

Staggering methods

(Image A) 12"

(Image B) 1 Tile

(Image C) 12"
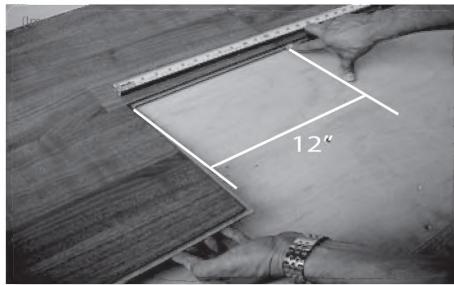
For wood patterns be sure to stagger the end joint of the plank being installed a minimum of 12" (inches) from the end joint of the plank in the previously installed row.

For tile patterns be sure to stagger the end joint of the plank being installed a minimum of one tile from the end joint of the plank in previously installed row.
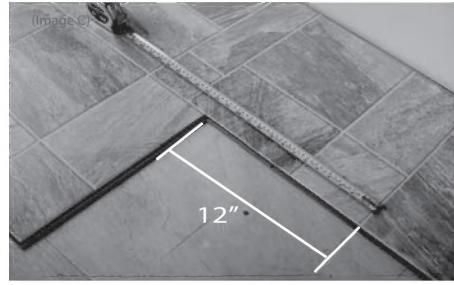
For random slate patterns be sure to stagger the end joint of the plank being installed a minimum of 12" (inches) from the end joint of the plank in the previously installed row. Using a wider stagger will create various different pattern.

(Image D) 100% 50% 50% 100%
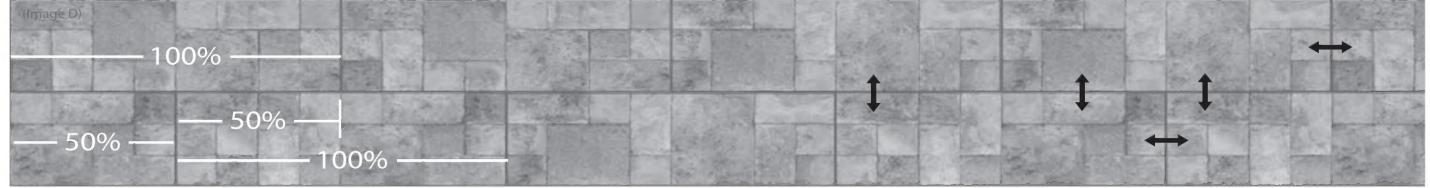
For a stone pattern installation it is VERY important to stagger the planks properly in order to create the Multi-Directional pattern. The pattern is achieved by staggering the end joints half way (50%) from the end joints of the plank installed on the previous row. If done properly the stone patterns and grout lines will line up in multiple places from plank to plank and the floor will appear seamless.
Arrows show examples of Multi-DirectionalPattern